

 Ron Cantor · 7 hours ago · 8 min read

10 / The Lie That Refuses to Die: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion (1903)



(This is Part 10 in our series ['A Cautionary History: When Christians Turned Against Jews'](#). [20 Stories to Combat Rising Antisemitism.](#))

Some lies are so vicious, so perfectly engineered for hatred, that they survive long after being exposed as frauds. *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* is the most dangerous antisemitic document ever produced. It has been debunked for over a century. It has been exposed as a forgery in court. Scholars, journalists, and historians across the political spectrum have dismantled it piece by piece. And yet it keeps circulating—in print, on social media, in university lecture halls, and in the talking points of podcasters who reach millions of people every week.

If you have encountered conspiracy theories about Jewish elites secretly controlling governments, banking systems, media, or world events, you have almost certainly encountered ideas that trace directly back to this document—whether the person sharing them knows it or not.

Reminder: Why We Are Telling These Stories

Before we go further, let me remind you why this series exists. The relative safety Jewish people have enjoyed in the Western world since World War II is the exception in history, not the rule. Right now, antisemitism is surging in ways that should alarm every follower of Yeshua. Popular voices are reviving ancient slanders and packaging them for new audiences. *The Protocols* is not a relic of the past. It is a living, breathing source of conspiracy theories that is poisoning minds today. Zechariah 14 tells us Jesus returns to a Jerusalem under siege. He will not return for a bride who helped put her there.

Where It Came From

In 1903, a Russian newspaper called *Znamya* published a series of articles containing what it claimed were the secret minutes of a Jewish world congress—a hidden meeting of Jewish leaders plotting to overthrow Christian civilization and seize control of the global economy, the press, and governments. The document was presented as evidence that Jewish people were not simply a religious minority living in various nations. They were, according to *The Protocols*, a conspiratorial nation within a nation—pulling strings behind every throne.

The problem? It was entirely fabricated.

- *The Protocols* was almost certainly produced by agents of the Russian secret police, the Okhrana (oh-KRAH-nah), under orders from officials in the court of Tsar Nicholas II.
- The text was plagiarized—not from any actual Jewish source, but primarily from a French political satire written in 1864 by Maurice Joly called *The Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu*.
- Joly's book had nothing to do with Jews; it was a critique of Napoleon III. The forgers simply replaced "Napoleon's methods of tyranny" with "the Jewish conspiracy's methods of world domination" and published it as fact.

In 1921, a correspondent for *The Times* of London named Philip Graves made this discovery public, demonstrating in a series of articles that passages in *The Protocols* were directly copied, almost word for word, from Joly's satirical novel. The forgery was exposed in broad daylight.

It did not matter.

The Lie That Couldn't Be Killed

By the time the forgery was proven, *The Protocols* had already been translated into dozens of languages and distributed across Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas. Henry Ford (of Ford Motors!)—one of the most famous men in America—used his newspaper, *The Dearborn Independent*, to promote *The Protocols'* ideas to American readers throughout the 1920s. He later compiled these articles into a book called *The International Jew*, which was distributed in half a million copies and translated into sixteen languages.

- Adolf Hitler praised Henry Ford by name in Mein Kampf and kept a portrait of him on his office wall.
- *The Protocols* became required reading in Nazi Germany. It was taught in schools.
- It provided the "ideological justification"—if such evil can be called that—for the persecution, dispossession, and eventual genocide of six million Jewish people.

In 1934 and 1935, a Swiss court put *The Protocols* on trial after a Jewish organization sued distributors for publishing it. The court ruled that *The Protocols* was "ridiculous nonsense" and declared it a forgery. The ruling was later overturned on a technicality related to the applicable law—not because anyone disputed that the document was fake. It has never been defended as authentic by a single credible historian.

What It Claims—And Why People Believe It

The Protocols is structured as 24 fictional "protocols," or meeting minutes, in which Jewish leaders supposedly discuss their plans for world domination. The tactics described include: controlling the press, manipulating economic systems, engineering wars between nations, destabilizing governments through liberalism and democracy (which the document portrays as tools of manipulation), and replacing existing power structures with Jewish rule.

What makes the document so effective as propaganda is not that it is credible—it isn't—but that it is usable. Any global crisis can be plugged into its framework. Economic collapse? The Jews engineered it. A war? Jewish bankers funded both sides. A cultural shift you dislike? Jewish media figures promoted it. The document functions like a template: whatever you fear, it provides a Jewish villain.

This is exactly how it is being used today. *The Protocols* is not usually cited by name in 2026, but its ideas circulate constantly. The claim that Jewish people secretly control governments. That Israel or "Zionists" orchestrated 9/11. That Jewish financiers are engineering population replacement. That Jewish media figures suppress truth. These are not original observations. They are *Protocols* talking points, repackaged for podcasts and social media feeds.

The Church's Tragic Role

It would be comforting to say that the Christian world immediately rejected *The Protocols* as a fraud. It did not.

In Russia, the document was distributed with the blessing of Orthodox clergy and promoted as evidence that Jewish people were enemies of Christ. In the United States, Protestant ministers cited it from pulpits. In Germany, theologians sympathetic to National Socialism used it to frame Jewish persecution as a form of Christian self-defense. The same Church traditions that had blamed Jews for the Black Death, burned their books in Paris, expelled them from England, and tortured conversos (Jewish converts to Catholicism) in Portugal, now armed themselves with a freshly forged conspiracy theory to justify a fresh season of hatred.

The forgery did not create antisemitism. It weaponized the antisemitism that centuries of Christian teaching had already built.

That is the most sobering truth of this story. *The Protocols* did not emerge from a vacuum. It landed in soil that had been prepared for it—by blood libels, by Crusade massacres, by inquisitors and expulsion decrees and Reformation-era hatred. It grew quickly because the ground was already poisoned.

What the New Testament Actually Says

Over against all of this stands the radical, countercultural posture of the New Testament toward the Jewish people—and the Church cannot afford to ignore it. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, was himself a Jewish man who never stopped loving his people. In Romans 9:1-5, he writes that he could wish himself accursed—cut off from Messiah—if it meant Israel's salvation. The man who wrote half the New Testament would trade his own eternity for theirs. In Romans 11:11, he makes clear that Gentile salvation exists partly to make Israel envious of their own Messiah. In Romans 15:27, he tells Gentile believers they are literally indebted to the Jewish people: "If the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings." Add to this Romans 1:16 ("to the Jew first"), Genesis 12:3 ("I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you"), and Zechariah 2:8, where God calls Israel "the apple of His eye"—and the picture is unmistakable. The New Testament does not revoke God's love for the Jewish people. It assumes it, builds on it, and commands Gentile believers to reflect it.

Satan Hates Jesus—Which Is Why He Hates the Jews

Here is something that rarely gets said plainly enough: antisemitism is not primarily a political phenomenon. It is a spiritual one.

Satan hates Yeshua with a hatred beyond our comprehension. And he knows his Bible. He knows that Jesus came to earth as a Jew—born of a Jewish mother, circumcised on the eighth day, raised in a Jewish home, trained in the Jewish Scriptures, and crucified as the King of the Jews. He knows that Revelation 5:5 calls Yeshua "the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David." He knows that God's covenant with the Jewish people is irrevocable (Romans 11:29). And he knows what Zechariah 14 and Romans 11 make unmistakably clear: Yeshua's physical return to earth is connected to the survival, restoration, and ultimate salvation of the Jewish people.

If Satan can destroy the Jews—or simply turn the nations against them—he believes he can prevent the return of the King. This is why every generation produces a new Haman, a new Antiochus, a new Hitler. And this is why a document as easily debunked as *The Protocols* keeps rising from the dead. It is not surviving on its own merits. Something is keeping it alive—and it is not logic.

This is why the Church cannot afford to be casual about these lies. When believers share *Protocols*-inspired conspiracy theories—even unknowingly—they are not just spreading misinformation. They are participating in a satanic strategy aimed at the people through whom God promised to bless the world, and to whom He promised to send His Son a second time.

You Do Not Want to Be on the Wrong Side When He Returns

Zechariah 14:3-4 describes the return of the Lord with startling physical specificity: "Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem." Revelation 19:11 and following continues the picture—the heavens open, and a rider on a white horse appears, called Faithful and True, and He judges and wages war in righteousness.

This is not a metaphor. This is Yeshua—the Jewish Messiah, the Lion of the tribe of Judah—returning as a warrior-king to defend Jerusalem and His people.

You do not want to be part of the antisemitic mob when that happens.

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is a lie. But it is a lie with a purpose—to position as many people as possible against the people God loves, in the hour when history reaches its climax. Every time a believer repeats its talking points, they are taking a side. The question is which one.

God's plan to reach Israel runs through the Church. That is what Romans 11:11 tells us—that Gentile salvation is meant to make Israel jealous, to provoke them toward their own Messiah. The Church is God's instrument for Israel's redemption. Which means a Church infected with antisemitism is a Church that has been neutralized for one of its primary purposes.

The *Protocols* is not just an offense against the Jewish people. It is an offense against the plan of God.

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." (Romans 1:16)

Dr. Ron Cantor

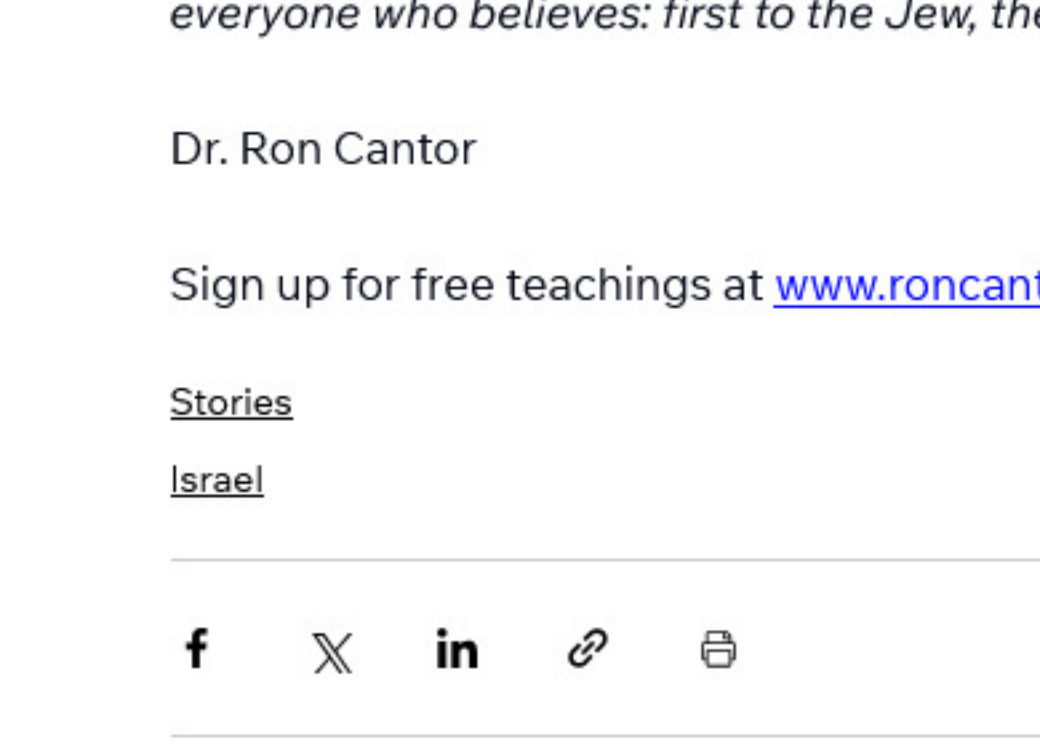
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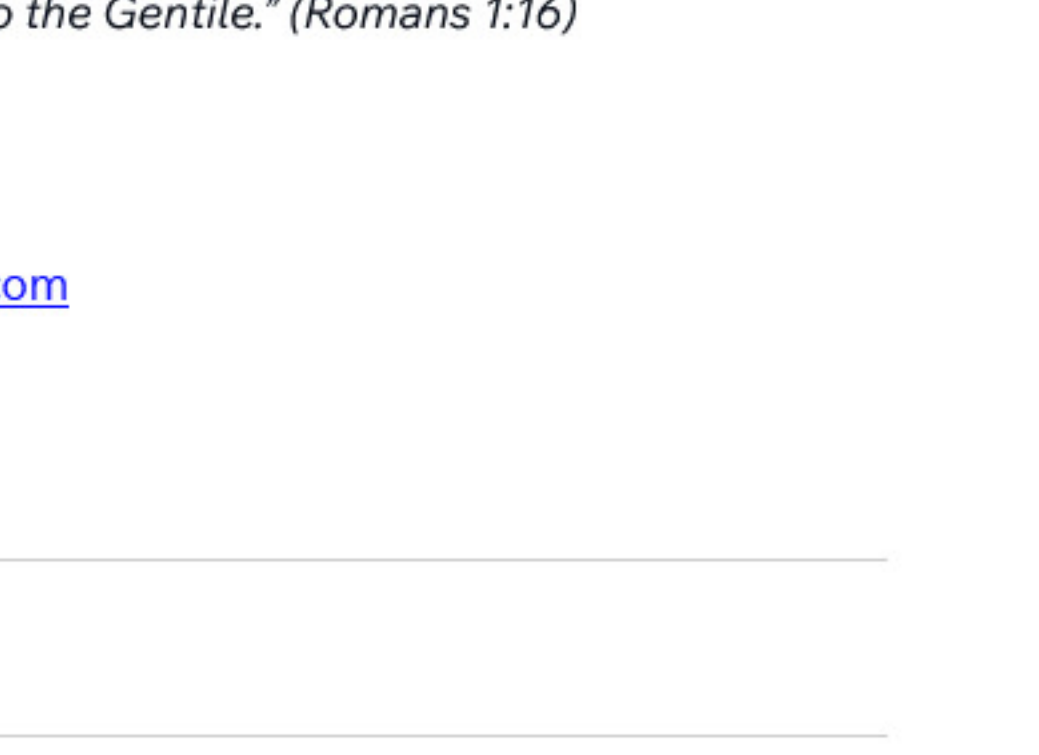
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About Dr. Ron Cantor

Here is a little bit about me. I serve as President of Shelanu TV, the only 24/7 Hebrew language TV channel sharing the message of Yeshua.

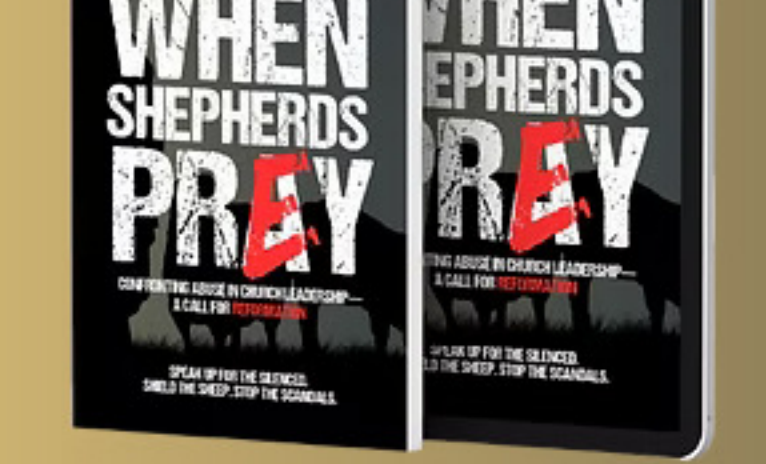
I am a passionate advocate for Israel and desire to see the Body of Messiah have God's heart for the Jewish people. I hold a master's degree from King's University and a doctorate from Liberty University. My beautiful wife, Eiana, and I live in Israel and have three amazing grown daughters.

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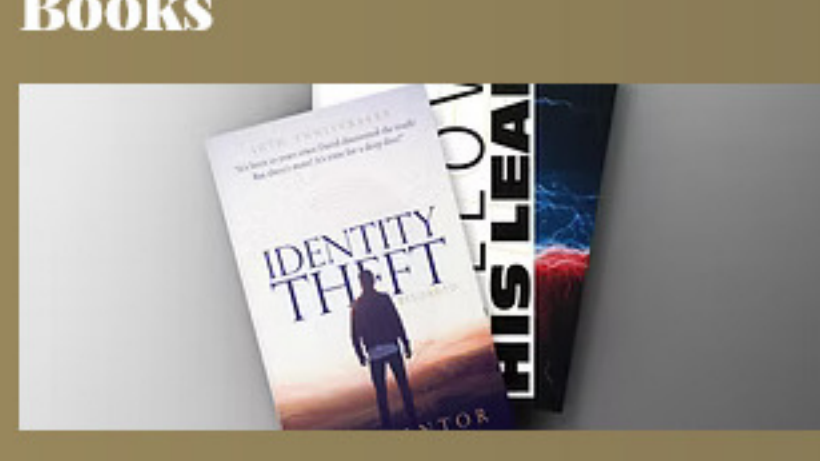
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